



Find Alternative Water Supplies in an Emergency

What are alternative water supplies?

Hidden water supplies are unusual and emergency places to find water if your water supplies are gone. Water supplies can become damaged in an emergency which can lead to contamination of normal water supplies.

What are some alternative sources of water in your home?

- Water can be drained from the drain spout of a water heater. Be sure the electricity and/or gas are off before opening the drain. Drain the water into a storage container.
- Water can be drained from the pipes inside your home. Open a faucet on the top floor of your home. Next go to the faucet at the lowest point in your home. Open the faucet and drain out the water you need into a storage container.
- Water from your toilet storage, or reserve tank, can be used if no chemicals have been used in this tank. Do not use this water if it is blue in color because chemicals have been used.
- Water that has been placed in ice cube trays in the freezer can be used.

What are some alternative sources of water outside of your home?

- These sources can be considered as a potential source; however, they may contain chemical or bacterial pollutants which could be hazardous to your health.
 - Rainwater
 - Rivers and Streams
 - Ponds
 - Lakes
- Boil water from these sources for at least 10 minutes prior to drinking.
- CAUTION: Chemical pollutants will not be removed by boiling.

What are water sources to be avoided?

- Avoid water that contains solid materials, has an odor, or has a dark color.



PO Box 47890
Olympia, WA 98504-
7890

Web Site:
www.doh.wa.gov

360-236-4027
(800) 525-0127

DOH Pub 821-048